

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

By the foregoing amendment, claims 1 and 5-8 have been amended. Claims 1-8 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

In the Office Action mailed October 8, 2004 the Examiner objected to FIG. 5. The Examiner further rejected claims 1-2 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA), as shown in FIGs. 1 and 3. The Examiner allowed claims 3-4 and 6-8.

Regarding the objection to FIG. 5, a replacement drawing sheet, which includes corrections to FIG. 5, is enclosed with this Response. If any additional amendment is necessary to overcome this rejection, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative.

Claims 1-2 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the AAPA. The Office Action asserts that the AAPA (FIGs. 1 and 3) teaches and/or suggests the features recited in claims 1-2 and 5. It is noted that claims 1 and 5 have been amended by this Response. This rejection is respectfully traversed, as follows.

Amended claim 1 recites a delay time adjusting method of adjusting a delay time of an input signal so that a phase of said input signal and a phase of an output signal match each other, the method comprising the steps of comparing phases of said output signal and said input signal with each other and starting an increase of the delay time whenever a phase difference is detected in the step of comparing.

The AAPA teaches comparing two signals. Based on the results of the comparison, an adjustment is made to the delay time, which includes either an increase or a decrease of the delay time. Consequently, the AAPA does not teach or suggest “starting an increase of the delay time whenever a phase difference is detected in the step of comparing.”

Thus, the AAPA fails to teach and/or suggest the invention of claim 1. Specifically, the AAPA (FIGS. 1 and 3) fails to teach and/or suggest starting an increase of the delay time whenever a phase difference is detected in the step of comparing.

Claim 2 is dependent from claim 1. Claim 2 is also allowable for at least those reasons discussed above in reference to claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 2 is respectfully requested.

Amended claim 5 recites a delay time adjusting circuit for adjusting a delay time of an input signal so that a phase of said input signal and a phase of an output signal match each other between phases based on a comparison of said input signal and said output signal, the circuit comprising a detecting circuit for detecting a phase difference between said phase of said input signal and said phase of said output signal and a delaying circuit for increasing a delay time of said phase of said output signal, when starting the delay time adjustment, so that the delay time is set to a value at which said phase difference becomes N periods, where N is an integer other than zero.

The AAPA teaches comparing two signals. Based on the results of the comparison, an adjustment is made to the delay time, which includes increasing or decreasing the delay time. However, the AAPA does not teach or suggest stopping the increase of the delay time when the delay time reaches a value at which the phase

difference becomes N periods. Consequently, the AAPA does not teach or suggest "a delaying circuit for increasing a delay time of said phase of said output signal, when starting the delay time adjustment, so that the delay time is set to a value at which said phase difference becomes N periods, where N is an integer other than zero."

Thus, the AAPA fails to teach and/or suggest the invention of claim 5. Specifically, the AAPA (FIGS. 1 and 3) fails to teach and/or suggest a delaying circuit for increasing a delay time of said phase of said output signal, when starting the delay time adjustment, so that the delay time is set to a value at which said phase difference becomes N periods, where N is an integer other than zero.

Claims 5-8 have been amended to replace the term "means" with the term "circuit." Claims 6-8 have been allowed. The Applicant submits claims 6-8, as amended, remain allowable over the art of record for at least the reasons cited by the Examiner.

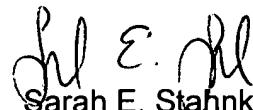
For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending patentability distinguish the present invention from the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

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RJH/SES:vrb

Enclosures: Figure 5
TECH/276855.1

IN THE DRAWINGS

Enclosed please find a proposed corrected drawing sheet including corrections to

FIG. 5.